UNDP

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Distributed on request
DP/PROJECTS/7082

ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
BRAZIL

IPF:(1987-91) $17 500 000

(BRA/89/006) - Selected Baseline Data Compilation and Processing, and Training for Systematic Agroecological-economic Zoning for Sustainable Development of the Amazon Region

Date of approval:	18 December 1989
Expected duration:	One year
Proposed executing agency:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Government implementing agency:	Secretary for Regional Development, Presidency of the Republic
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$500 000 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$500 000

Project background

The Brazilian Amazon Region, covering about five million square kilometres, constitutes the largest reserve of land and forest resources in the country. Development pressures have been increasing, for commercial uses of forest products, ranching, mineral prospecting and plantation agriculture, as well as the migration of small farmers from other regions.

Recent development experiences in the Amazon have shown important differences in the potential and the limitations of the region for utilization, as well as the magnitude of the risks of environmental degradation. Some areas which are particularly vulnerable, or whose soils are not suitable for agriculture, need to be protected. Others are to be kept for biological or gene bank reserves and nature conservation, possibly combined with tourism and/or recreation. Various forms of controlled use of forest resources or agriculture are planned for other areas.

The choice of the most appropriate form of sustainable land use in each area is of crucial importance, as the soils, the environment and the socio-economic conditions are particularly fragile and failures in development may cause irreversible damage.

The Government of Brazil has strengthened its commitment to protecting the environment through its new Constitution (1988) and the recently promulgated government plan, "Nossa Natureza," which foresees systematic land-use zoning of the region, use of the zoning in regional planning, and controlled execution of the zoning plans.

Following a preliminary assessment by FAO and a FAO/Government mission to set up an effective process for land-use planning, the present project represents a third stage in

laying the groundwork for a full-fledged project for strengthening the Government's land-use planning in the Amazon region.

Description of project

The project will seek to : (a) assist in the consolidation of existing baseline data on natural resources and economic activities in the Amazon region; (b) support selective use of that data for agroecological-economic zoning to promote sustainable development of the region and to be implemented by national institutions; (c) train national teams in each institution to carry out project activities through the use of modern methods and equipment for land-use planning; and (d) assist specialized units already in place which need to be strengthened or provided with appropriate technical equipment.

Primary project activities will include: (a) compilation, processing and publication of existing, scattered data on natural resources in the region, which are of essential and immediate use for the start of the main project; (b) provision of some basic equipment to state-level multidisciplinary groups that are to be involved in the main project; (c) some specialized training in zoning and its application for groups of professionals at the state level who are likely to be involved in the main project; and (d) testing of land evaluation tools for sound land-use husbandry.

Inputs

UNDP will provide one international specialist in natural resources evaluation and land zoning with experience in the Amazon forest, as Chief Technical Adviser (12 man-months), two short-term consultants for six weeks each as senior international specialists in land use zoning, conservation and management of tropical forest resources; a subcontract for various national institutions to carry out activities of the project, including in-service training, local workshops and group training, in co-ordination with (BRA/87/021) Training in Project Management in the Amazon Region; equipment for remote sensing imagery, cartographic flatbed plotter data processing equipment, and a microcomputer system.

The Government will provide two senior professional officers, one to be the national team leader, one senior technical officer to handle financial and administrative aspects, and two bilingual secretaries; offices and adequate working space for project staff and equipment in Brasilia and Belem, as well as vehicles for local transportation.

Financial data

	$
Personnel	160 000
Subcontract	280 000
Equipment	44 000
Miscellaneous	16 000
Total	500 000

- - - - -